

MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON 15TH JULY 2024 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending; Councillors Bennett, Lambert, Guppy, Thomas, Leech, Lloyd & Loft and the clerk C Garrod, plus 7 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** District Councillor Cowen
- 2) **Declarations of Interest;** Cllrs Lambert as owner & landlord of the eagle, Cllr Leech as a farmer from Little Hockham, Cllrs Bennett & Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Requests for Dispensation;** Cllr Lloyd had been granted a dispensation.
- 4) **Approval of the minutes from 17th June 24;** These were unanimously agreed and signed.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) Wheelchair ramp. It was agreed to get more information on this subject. It was noted planning permission would be needed for a permanent structure.
 - b) Info board. The clerk would contact the artist
 - c) Website. The new PC only website was under construction at www.hockhamparish.gov.uk The current village site would remain and both sites would have links to each other.
 - d) Drainage. Cllr Eagle had been advised as asked, along with Matt Lines from highways. Cllr Eagle would need to be chased again as drainage was raised by many at the recent local plan meeting.
 - e) Road signage for the village hall. Mr Stebbing was investigating potential locations and following a debate over signposts, it was agreed to use those we had and to also ask a resident of home Farm Park for assistance.
 - f) Parliament Lane. The clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks to Kerrie Jackson for sorting this matter so well.
 - g) Sign For village hall. The village hall committee would investigate.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for public views to be aired.
- 7) **County & District Councillor reports.** Cllr Cowen had sent a district report, which highlighted the local plan consultation progress and the potential impact of a new government on planning, the Breckland Council budget, the move to potential car parking charges in the local towns and that capita no longer runs the planning and building control services and the employees affected were now employed by Breckland Council. There was no County Council report.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety. (Cllr Thomas)** Works on Harling Road & Vicarage Rd had been completed. An issue on Parliament Lane was being address by NCC. Sam 2 had still yet to be approved and a new parish partnership grant application was in with a December closing date. The A1075 access issue had also been raised again.
- 9) **Planning. (Cllrs Lambert, Lloyd & Leech)** Application 3PL/2024/0488/HOU,10 Harling Road, had been approved. 3PL/2024/0402/HOU Sunny Nook, Vicarage Rd had not been decided on yet, 3PL/2024/0383/0 Springfield, the PC would stick with the comments made on the previous application following amendment.

FOI Chief Exec. Breckland Council had raised a corporate complaint regards the handling of the Smithy Cottage planning issues and were investigating. Enforcement. Two matters were with Breckland Council regards street trading at No 1 Harling Road and transport and dumping of imported soil to a site off the A1075 between the village junctions.

It was agreed that outside of full meetings the three councillors allocated to planning would be joined by a fourth so comments could be made. Other councillors would need to make any views known (outside of meetings) to those parties. This was to address the fast-moving local plan issues and the very short notice periods for comments recently experienced. Authority was duly delegated.

The Local plan comments had been received and the Parish Council were supporting Larling & Roudham Parish Council where they could.

10) **Finances.** The clerk appraised councillors of the bank situation.

Parish Council Bank balance £15288.15

Paid DD Savills Allotment lease £175

Pearce & Kemp £45.60 July and August approved. (Please note since the change to LED we have had no call outs). Clerk's salary for July and August £179.40 each month approved. There were no known new bills for July /August except N power Direct debit at £111.81 and a Direct Debit for N power expected for August.

SAM 2 has yet to be approved but will be actioned on approval.

Playing Field Finances; Current Account balance £14226.76

Expenses £1100 to HSCA for purchase of 2 new marquees

Expected energy rebate (being sorted by CW & CG)

Payments due fireworks app £2000 (This is a July outlay for maximum discount).

Cllr Lloyd and the clerk will be sitting down to sort out the cash and events monies soon, that have been taken since April. This will increase the bank balance.

11) **Allotments.** (Cllr Bennett). It was noted there was still a demand for allotments.

12) **Footpaths & Rights of Way.** (Cllr Loft) The trod was being cut by a third party but not weed killed. Maintenance by NCC was frankly poor to non-existent.

13) **Playing Field.** (Cllr Lloyd) There was a car boot planned, weather dependant on 28th July. Thanks were given to Frank Batt, Aimee Taylor and Paul Taylor for repairs to the slide. There was soon to be a working party meeting to discuss future events and the Summer Show.

Thanks were extended to Tony Loft for mole control and to Chris Wiltshire and Chris Garrod for negotiating a £700 discount on two new marquees. Fireworks planning was progressing.

14) **Councillor Updates.** Comments had been made regards the lack of bees this year. Cllr Leech said that Leech Farms were planting a considerable amount of wildflower and wild bird mix, which might help. Messrs Garrod and Wiltshire were looking at hives and bees on a personal level.

15) **Correspondence.** Breckland Council would be conducting a survey with the Parish Council on open space and play provision.

16) **Next meeting** Monday September 9th 2024.g